



MEDIA RELEASE

Stabbing Arrest

SANTA BARBARA, CA – July 5, 2012

On July 4, 2012 at 11:48 p.m., officers from the Santa Barbara Police Department responded to a call of an assault with a deadly weapon that had just occurred on 500 Olive Street. The victim, Cody James Fairfax-Castleberry, age 21, was found seriously injured on the west sidewalk with a stab wound to the right side of his chest. He was treated at the scene by firefighters and paramedics and then transported to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital where he underwent surgery and is presently recovering.

Numerous witnesses at the scene and surveillance video identified the suspect as Malik Dion Harris-Ellis, age 19. Castleberry and Ellis are acquaintances and Santa Barbara residents.

Investigation indicates that prior to the incident Ellis was attending a party outside of the apartment complex at 422 E. Cota Street. While he was there Castleberry arrived, highly intoxicated, and challenged Ellis to fight. A fistfight ensued, characterized by moments where Ellis would dodge punches thrown by Castleberry and even run away, only to be followed by Castleberry who was intent on fighting. After several minutes of this behavior Ellis went into the house at 510 Olive Street where he knows some of the residents. Ellis retrieved a kitchen knife and confronted Castleberry outside. He dodged a punch thrown by Castleberry, stabbed him, and then fled, discarding the knife on the way.

At 5:10 a.m. Detective Bryan Jensen and Detective Mike Claytor located Ellis at his residence at 25 Broadmoor Plaza apt. F and arrested him. At 8:10 a.m. Detective Mike Brown and Detective Shawn Hill found the knife used in the stabbing on the roof of the building at 531 E. Cota Street.

Ellis was booked at Santa Barbara County Jail for assault with a deadly weapon, a felony, and destruction or concealment of evidence, a misdemeanor. His bail amount is \$30,000.00.



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